

2

THE Vow and Covenant

Appointed by
The LORDS and COMMONS
Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

To be taken by every Man, in the Cities of
LONDON, WESTMINSTER, the
Suburbs and Liberties thereof, and through-
out the whole KINGDOM.

Together with
INSTRVCTIONS

How, and in what manner the said Vow
and COVENANT shall be taken.

Ordered by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parlia-
ment, That this Oath and Covenant, with the Instru-
ctions, be forthwith printed, and published to the whole
Kingdom:

H: Elsyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

29 Junii, 1643.

London, Printed for EDW: HUSBANDS.

WIT

NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

THE NEW AND COVENANT

(13)
*The Vow and Covenant, appointed by the Lords and Commons in
Parliament, to be taken throughout the whole Kingdom.*

W Hereas the Lords and Commons now assembled in Parliament have declared, that there hath been, and now is a Popish and Trayterous *Plot* for the subversion of the true Protestant reformed Religion, and the Liberty of the Subject; And that in pursuance thereof, a popish Army hath been raised, and now is on foot in divers parts of this Kingdom: And have further in a solemn manner Declared, Vowed, and Covenanted, That in order to the security and preservation of the true Protestant Religion, and Liberty of the Subject, they will not consent to the laying down of Arms, so long as the Papists now in open War against the Parliament, shall by force of Arms be protected from the Justice thereof. And whereas the Lords and Commons have Declared, that there hath been a treacherous and horrid Designe lately discovered, by the great blessing, and speciall providence of God, of divers persons to joyne themselves with the Armies raised by the King, and to destroy the Forces raised by the Lords and Commons in Parliament, to surprize the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, with the Suburbs, and by Arms to force the Parliament: And the said Lords and Commons finding by constant experience, that many wayes of force and treachery are continually attempted, to bring to utter ruine and destruction the Parliament and Kingdom, and that which is dearest, the true Protestant Religion: and that for the preventing, and withstanding the same, they have thought fit, That all who are true hearted, and lovers of their country, should binde themselves each to other in a sacred Vow and Covenant, in manner and form as followeth, and accordingly:

I A. B. in humility and reverence of the Divine Majesty, declare my hearty sorrow for my own sins, and the sins of this Nation, which have deserved the Calamities and Judgements that now lye upon it; And my true intention is, by Gods grace, to endeavour the amendment of my own wayes; And that I do abhor and detest the said wicked and treacherous Designe lately discovered; and that I never gave, nor will give my assent to the execution thereof, but will, according to my power and vocation, oppose and resist the same, and all other of the like nature: And in case any other like Designe shall hereafter come to my knowledge, I will make such timely discovery as I shall conceive may best conduce to the preventing thereof. And whereas I do in my conscience beleeve, That the Forces raised by the two Houses of Parliament are raised and continued for their just Defence, and for the Defence of the true Protestant Religion, and Liberties of the Subject, against the Forces raised by the King: I do here, in the presence of Almighty God, Declare, Vow, and Covenant, That I will, according to my power and vocation, assist the Forces raised and continued by both Houses of Parliament, against the Forces raised by the King without their consent; And will likewise assist all other persons that shall take this Oath, in what they shall do in pursuance thereof; And will not directly or indirectly adhere unto, nor shall willingly assist the Forces raised by the King without the consent of both Houses of Parliament. And this Vow and Covenant I make in the presence of Almighty God, the Searcher of all hearts, with a true intention to perform the same, as I shall answer at the great Day, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed.

27 Junii,

27 Iunii, 1643.

Instructions for the taking of the Vow and Covenant throughout the Kingdom.

1. **T**hat all the Knights and Burgesſes now in Parliament do take ſpeciall care, ſpeedily to ſend down into their ſeverall counties a competent number of the Copies of the Vow and Covenant, unto the Deputy Lieutenants, and Committees of Parliament in their ſeverall Counties, and require a Certificate from them of the day when they were received, which they are to return unto the Clerk of the Houſe of Commons, that ſo an Accompt may be given of it, as there ſhall be occaſion.

2. That the ſaid Deputy Lieutenants and Committees, do within ſix dayes at the utmoſt, diſperſe the ſaid Copies unto every Pariſh-Church or Chappell in their ſeverall Counties, to be delivered unto the Miniſter or Churchwardens of the ſaid ſeverall Churches, which they ſhall ſend, together with a Precept under ſome one or more of their hands, Commanding the ſeverall Miniſters & Churchwardens to return a true certificat within twenty dayes, of the names of thoſe who ſhal not take it, unto ſuch perſon within the ſaid ſeverall Counties, as ſhall by the ſaid Deputy Lieutenants and Committees or ſome of them, be appointed to receive the ſame.

3. Tha

3. That the Ministers of the severall Churches & Chappels shall give publick notice upon the first Lords day after their receipt of such Copies, &c. what day the said Vow and Covenant shall be taken in their severall Parishes, the time not to exceed the seventh day after such notice.

4. That before the day so appointed, the Constables of every town within the said severall Parishes, shall bring unto the Ministers the Names fair written. of all men above the age of Fifteen, residing within their severall towns or Villages. And the Church-wardens of every Parish, shall before the said day so appointed, provide a Register Book; In the beginning of which, shall be the Vow and Covenant fair written, wherein every man after hee hath taken the said Vow and Covenant, shall write his name, or make his marke whereunto his name shall be written.

5. That this Vow and Covenant shall be taken by all men in the Church within the severall Parishes where they do reside, in the presence of the Ministers, Church-wardens, Side-men, and Constables of the said Parish, or two of them at the least, joyntly with the Minister, the parties standing up; and either audibly pronouncing all the words of the same, or else some one having then solemnly read over the whole, & taken it in their sight & hearing, they shall take the Covenant in their hand, saying; And I A. B. take this Vow and Covenant, &c. As it is in the last clause of the Covenant unto the end thereof.

6. That if any residing in the Parish do not come and take the said Vow and Covenant as aforesaid, at the first day appointed for the same, then the Minister shall appoint another day for it speedily after: And the Church-wardens or some for them, are to go unto the houses where

where they dwell, and give them personall notice, and if they be not at home, then to leave the notice with some of the house, of the day appointed for their taking of it, and if they shall not come and take it at that time, they may be returned for refusers of it.

7. That the ministers and Church-wardens of the severall Parishes, shall within twenty dayes after their receipt of the said copies of the Vow and Covenant, make a true Certificate of the names of all such within their Parishes as do not take it, unto such person as shall bee appointed for that purpose, who shall speedily returne them unto the Deputy-Lieutenants or Committees of Parliament in that county, or any three of them, together with the names of all such Ministers as do not send in their Certificates within the twenty dayes as afore-sayd. Whereof the sayd Deputy-Lieutenants or Committees are to make Duplicats, keeping one part with them, and returning the other sealed unto the Clerk of the House of Commons.

8. That the said Deputy-Lieutenants and Committees of Parliament, or some of them, do forthwith disarm, or cause to be disarmed, all those that shall not take the said Vow and Covenant. And if it can be proved by any one witnes that they had in their custody any Arms whatsoever, at the time of the making of this Covenant, or at any time since, which they shall not then deliver unto those appointed for to seize the same, then they shall be forthwith committed to prison, without Bayl or Main-prize.

9. That no Souldiers entertained shall receive any Pay from the State, untill they have in the presence of their Commander, and some Minister, taken the Vow and Covenant.

Die Sabbathi, 17 Junii, 1643.



It is this day ordered by the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, That publicke Thanksgiving throughout the whole Kingdom, for the discovery of the late Plot, shall be on Thursday come three weeks, being the thirteenth day of Iuly next ensuing: At which time the Covenant and Oath shall be tendered to every man in the severall Parish Churches & Chappels throughout the Kingdom, after the Sermon or Evening Prayers shall be finished.

H: Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.